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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: HIDEAKI KURIHARA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/066,463

Filed: January 31, 2002

Title: **RATE CONTROL DEVICE FOR VARIABLE-RATE  
VOICE ENCODING...**

Examiner: Martin Lerner

Group Art Unit: 2654

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 29 2003**

**Technology Center 2600**

May 27, 2003

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner For Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated February 27, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows: